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REX: R. J. M. 1912-1913

ACT 1. 11.4.00.2

DATE 1-29-10 REVIEWED ON
BY TONY OF SOUTH AFRICA

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

31 March 1960

- I. Further serious disorders are probable in the Union.
 - A. In strikes and demonstrations this week Africans demonstrated to their own satisfaction and to European minority their potential for disrupting country's economic and political structure.
 - 1. Work stoppage on 28 March "Day of Mourning" for last week's victims was highly effective--95% in Cape Town, 80% in Johannesburg.
 - 2. Absenteeism continues high.
 - B. Although Black African organizations have been emphasizing peaceful moves, various recent reports indicate plans for further demonstrations and their unwillingness to be satisfied with minor concessions.
 - 1. Blacks have already driven white administrators out of native sectors adjoining some cities.
 - C. But Black Africans are still not strong enough to challenge successfully white control of the country.
 - 1. Black Africans still lack unified leadership, as two major organizations compete for support of 3,500,000 urban Blacks (as distinct from the 6,000,000 Black natives who live on white-owned farms and in native reservations).
 - a. Older and larger of these Black urban organizations is Communist-influenced African National Congress; most of its leaders are under sharp surveillance or in jail.

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- b. Other Black urban organization is relatively new militant Pan-African Congress; it launched campaign against pass law which led to last week's riots.

II. Verwoerd government, after temporarily suspending pass law enforcement after 21-22 March riots, has stiffened attitude.

A. Government has:

1. arrested several hundred antigovernment leaders, including a few whites;
2. declared state of emergency in urban areas;
3. mobilized part of 20,000-man civilian reserve (to supplement 2,500-man army, 22,000-man police);
4. initiated legislative action to outlaw both the African National Congress and Pan-Africanist Congress.

B. In current moves to contain Black Africans, government is supported by almost all country's 3,000,000 whites--even those (the minority) who recognize need for moderation of government policies.

III. South African racial policies will be a major subject at two African conferences to be held in April in Accra and Conakry.

IV. Flame has been lit; it may temporarily flicker, but over months ahead will strengthen and flare.

A. As flames brighten, country's prospects darken.

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